

## CHAPTER III

### COUNTY OVERVIEW

Vance County's environment will directly influence the magnitude and type of development which will occur in the county. The purpose, therefore, is to provide a general description of the natural and man-made environment within Vance County, North Carolina. The natural environmental elements included are climate, geology, and minerals, soils, endangered species, woodland and animal life, surface and ground water, and air quality. The man-made environmental elements addressed are refuse disposal, transportation, recreation, scenic areas, archaeological sites, and water and sewer facilities. In specific cases, additional information will be referenced to existing elements. These elements should be fully explored to determine what specific development limitations are posed by each specific case.

#### Climate

The climate of Vance County is mainly determined by its position in temperate latitudes and is distinctly modified by the Appalachian Mountains on the northwest and by the Atlantic Ocean on the east and south. The mountain barrier at a distance of approximately 110 miles affords protection from cold winter outbreaks from the northwest; minor outbreaks of cool air moving southeastward from the Great Plains tend to be turned aside by this barrier, while the stronger movements of cold air are modified in crossing the mountains. The coldest weather is most likely to come from the north-northeast;